

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 018283

P R 211407Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6382

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0981

FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) AUGUST 20 COMMENTARY HEADED "ON SERVING PORTUGAL" WRITES:

"... EVERY EFFORT IS BING MADE NOT TO ALLOW PORTUGAL TO GO COMMUNIST BY DEFAULT. THE STRENGTH OF THE SOCIALISTS, HAS BEEN SO PREPONDERANT, THEY HAVE BEEN SO MILITANT, THAT THEY SHOULD BE TAKEN AS AN EXAMPLE IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHERE SOCIALISTS HAVE HOBNOBBED WITH COMMUNISTS, AND ENDED UP WITH BEING GRABBED UP BY THE COMMUNIST MINORITY. DR. SOARES HAS PLAYED HIS CARDS WELL...

THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT SEEMS SWAYING TO AND FRO, THOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT GONCALVES HOLDS NO CHARISMA OVER THE MOVEMENT.

HOWEVER THE BATTLE FOR A FREE PORTUGAL THAT WILL BE OUT OF THE COMMUNIST ENSNAREMENT IS FAR FROM OVER. WHAT IS REQUIRED... IS TO KEEP THE COMMUNIST DANGER AT BAY. THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE TO TAKE THE UPPER HAND, IN SPITE OF THEIR MINORITY WAS TOO DISTINCT A POSSIBILITY. HENCE THE ACTION OF THE SOCIALISTS WHO HAVE ASTONISHED MANY - NO LESS THE COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES. AND THE INTEREST OF RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE FORMER TO SEE A COMMUNIST DOMINATED GOVERNMENT, THE LATTER URGING A FREE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE WESTERN ORBIT, HAS LED TO THE BITTER EXCHANGE - AN INDICATION OF HOW BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO GET PORTUGAL UNDER THEIR MANTLE.

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THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK - THEY MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO RALLY AND STRIKE BACK". SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VALLET00981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750289-1110
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750829/aaaaazhb.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) AUGUST 20 COMMENTARY HEADED "ON
TAGS: PFOR, PO
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006